

We have no time to make remarks this week, on this important document. In our next we expect to do so. We venture to say that ours is the first edition of the "Message," issued from any press in the State. Hurrah for the Journal office!!!

*To the Senate and House of
Representatives of the*

of the People of the States, in sentiment and feeling, and in other respects, and that the Union, in the terms of our political compact, and, above all, a sacred observance of the guarantees of the Constitution, will preserve union on a foundation which cannot be shaken; while personal liberty is placed beyond hazard or jeopardy. The guarantee of religious freedom, of the freedom of the press, of the liberty of speech, of the trial by jury, of the habeas corpus, and of the right of petition, are the rights of the citizen—leaving the private citizen in the full exercise of the high and exalting attributes of his nature, and to each State the privilege, which can only be judiciously exerted by itself, of consulting the means best calculated to advance its own happiness—these are the great and important guarantees of the Constitution, which the lovers of liberty must cherish, and the States of our Union must cultivate. Permitting these rights to be invaded or interpretations by forced construction, under the guise of an imagined expediency, upon the Constitution, the influence of our political system is destined to be as actively and as beneficially felt on the distant shores of the Pacific, as it is now on those of the Atlantic Ocean. The only formidable impediments in the way of its successful expansion (time and space) are the improvements of the age, as to render no longer speculative the ability of Representatives from that remote region to come up to the Capitol, so that their constituents shall participate in all the benefits of Federal legislation. Thus it is that, in the progress of time, the inestimable principles of civil liberty will be enjoyed by millions yet unborn, and the beneficent influence of our Government be extended to now distant and unhabited regions. In view of the vast wilderness yet to be reclaimed, we may well invite the lover of freedom, of every land, to take up his abode among us, and assist us in the great work of advancing the standard of civilization, and giving a wider spread to the arts and refinements of cultivated life. Our prayers should be for the Father of the Universe for his wisdom to direct us in the path of our duty, so as to enable us to consummate these high purposes.

family dissensions and neighborhood disputes; and the same cause affects the peace, happiness and prosperity of States. It may be most devoutly hoped that the good sense of the American People will ever be ready to repel all such attempts, should they ever be made.

The doors of the joint commission appointed by the two Governments to run the dividing line established by the Treaty of Washington, were unfortunately, much delayed in the commencement of the season, by the failure of Congress, in its last session, to make a timely appropriation to meet the expenses of the commission. The grand surveyor, however, expresses his expectations by increased diligence and energy, the party will be able to make up for lost time.

We continue to receive assurances of the friendly feelings on the part of all the other European powers, with each, and all of them, it is obvious, our interest is identical, the most amicable relations. Nor can I anticipate the occurrence of any event which would be likely, in any degree to disturb those relations. Russia, the great northern power, under the judicious sway of her Emperor, is constantly advancing in the road of science and improvement; while France, guided by the councils of herwise sovereign, pursues a course calculated to consolidate her empire, and to extend her influence, and nothing spell of some duration, from the internal convulsions which have, through so many years, marred her progress; while Austria, the Netherlands, Prussia, Belgium, and other powers of Europe, reap the richest harvest of blessings from the prevailing peace.

I informed the two Houses of Congress in my message of December last, that I had been authorized by the President to negotiate a treaty with the Germanic States composing the Zoll Verein, if it could be done stipulating, as far as it was practicable to accomplish it, for a reduction of the heavy and onerous duties levied on our tobacco, and other leading articles of agricultural production; and yielding in return, on our part, a reduction of the duties on the raw materials of their industry, as should not come into competition, or be limited, with articles the product of our manufacturing industry. The Executive, in giving such instructions, considered itself as acting in strict conformity with the wishes of Congress, as made known

ter at Berlin to re-open the negotiation so far as to obtain an extension of time for the exchange of ratifications. I regret, however, to say that his efforts, in this respect, have been unsuccessful. I am, nevertheless, not without hope that, the great advantages which were intended to be secured by the treaty, may yet be realized.

No definite intelligence has yet been received from our Minister, of the conclusion of a Treaty with the Chinese Empire; but enough is known to induce the strongest hopes that, the mission will be crowned with the most successful results.

With Brazil our relations continue on the most friendly footing. The commercial intercourse between that growing Empire and the United-States is becoming daily of greater importance to both; and it is the interest of both that, the firmest relation of amity and good will, should continue to be cultivated between them.

The Republic of New Grenada still withholds, notwithstanding the most persevering efforts have been employed by our Chargé d'Affairs, Mr. Blackford to produce a different result—indemnity in the case of the brig "Morris." And the Congress of Venezuela, although an arrangement has been effected between our Minister, and the Minister of foreign affairs of that government, for the payment of \$18,000, in discharge of its liabilities in the same case—has altogether neglected to make provision for its payment. It is to be hoped that a sense of justice will soon induce a settlement of these claims.

Our late Minister to Chili, Mr. Pendleton, has returned to the United-states without having effected an adjustment in the second claim of the Macedonian, which is delayed on grounds altogether frivolous and untenable. Mr. Pendleton's successor has been directed to urge the claim in the strongest terms; and, in the event of a failure to obtain a permanent adjustment, to report the fact to the Executive at as early a day as possible, so that the whole matter may be communicated to Congress.

At your last session, I submitted to the attention of Congress, the Convention with the Republic of Peru of the 17th of March, 1841, providing for the adjustment of the claims of citizens of the United States against that Republic; but no definitive action was taken upon the subject. I again invite to it your attention and prompt action.

In my last annual Message, I felt it to be my duty to make known to Congress, in terms both plain and emphatic, my opinions in regard to the war which has so long been waged between Mexico and Texas; which, since the battle of San Jacinto, had consisted altogether of predatory incursions, attended by circumstances revolting to humanity. I repeated now, what I then said that, after eight years of feeble and ineffectual efforts to recover Texas, it was time that the war should have ceased. The

United-states had a direct interest in the question. The contiguity of the two nations to our territory required to be well calculated to involve our peace.—One of the great objects of the Government in its mind was to preserve the tranquillity of the Union, and either one or the other of the belligerents against the United States, as a necessary consequence, American interests were made to suffer, and our peace became daily endangered. In addition to which, it must have been obvious to all that the exhaustion produced by the war, subjected both Mexico and Texas to the interference of other powers; which, without the interference of the Government, might eventuate in the most serious injury to the United States. The Government, from time to time, exerted its friendly offices to bring about a termination of hostilities upon terms honorable alike to both the belligerents. Its efforts in this behalf proved unavailing. Mexico seemed, almost without an object, to persevere in the war, and no other alternative was left the Executive but to take advantage of the well known dispositions of Texas, and to invite her to enter into a treaty annexing her territory to that of the United States.

duce to our last session, Mexico has threatened to renew the war and has either made or proposes to make, formidable preparation for invading Texas. She has issued decrees and proclamations, preparatory to the commencement of hostilities, full of threats, revolting to humanity; and which if carried into effect, would arouse the attention of all Christians. This new demonstration of feeling towards us, for such much reason to believe, has been produced in consequence of the execution of the late treaty of annexation with Texas. The Executive, therefore, could not be indifferently to such proceedings, and it felt it to be due, as well to itself as to the honor of the country

that a strong representation should be made to the Mexican Government upon the subject. This was accordingly done, as will be seen by the copy of the accompanying despatch from the Secretary of State to the United States Envoy at Mexico. Mexico has no right to regard the United States as urging an invasion unless and fruitless, even under a condition of things would not be tolerated on the European continent. Why should we be on this? A war of desolation, such as now threatened by Mexico, cannot be waged without involving our peace and tranquillity. It is idle to believe that such a war could be looked upon with indifference by our own citizens, inhabiting adjoining States; and our military and naval forces, in despite of our efforts on the part of the Government, would prevent it. The country is settled by emigrants from the United States, under invitation here to them by Spain and Mexico. Those emigrants have left behind them friends and relatives who would not fail to sympathize with them in their difficulties, and who would be led by those sympathies to participate in their struggles, however energetic the action of the Government. The country is also the numerous and formidable bands of Indians, the most warlike to be found in any land, which occupy the extensive regions contiguous to the States of Arkansas and Missouri and who are in possession of large tracts of country within the limits of Texas, be likely to remain passive. The inclinations of the numerous tribes lead them invariably to war.

volt from the control of the 'Central Govern-ment has, heretofore, manifested itself in some of those provinces; and it is fair to infer that they would be inclined to take the first favorable opportunity to proclaim their independence, and to form close alliances with Texas. The war would thus be endless; or, if cessation of hostilities should occur, they would only endure for a season. The interests of Mexico, therefore, could in nothing be better consulted than in a peace with her neighbors which would result in the establishment

permanent boundary. Upon the ratification of the treaty, the Executive was prepared to treat with her on the most liberal basis. Hence the boundaries of Texas were left undefined by the treaty. The Executive proposed to settle these upon terms that all the world should have pronounced just and reasonable. No negotiation upon that point

ould have been undertaken between the U. S. and Mexico, in advance of the ratification of the treaty. We could not have had the power—no authority—to have conducted such negotiation; and to have undertaken it, it would have been an assumption equally revolting to the pride of Mexico and Texas, and subjecting us to the charge of arrogance: while to have proposed in advance of annexation, to satisfy Mexico for any contingent interest she might have in Texas, would have been to have treated Texas, not as an independent power, but as a mere dependency of Mexico, and this assumption could not have been acted on.

any of the Executive without setting at defiance the solemn obligations of the Republic as an independent state. Mexico, it is true, threatened war against the United States, in the event the treaty of annexation was ratified.—The Executive could not permit itself to be influenced by this threat. It presented in this, the spirit of our people, who are ready to sacrifice much for peace, but nothing to intimidation. A war, under any circumstances, is greatly to be deplored, and the United States have no desire to have it; but if, as the condition of peace, it be required of us to forego the unquestionable right of treating with an independent power, of our own continent, upon matters highly interesting to both, and that upon a naked and unsustained pretension of claim by a third power, to control the free will of the power with whom we treat—devoted as we may be to peace, and anxious to cultivate friendly relations with all the world, we nevertheless do not hesitate to say, that the people of the U. S. would be ready to brave all consequences, sooner than submit to such condition

But no apprehension of war was entertained by the Executive, and I must express frankly the opinion that, had the treaty been ratified by the senate, it would have been followed by a prompt settlement, to the entire satisfaction of Mexico, of every matter in difference between the two countries. Seeing then that no preparation was made for such an event, and that it was not to be adopted by Mexico, and that these were brought about, because Texas had adopted the suggestion of the Executive upon the subject of annexation, it could not passively have folded its arms and permitted a war, threatened to be accompanied by every act that could mark a barbarous age, to be waged

Another consideration of a controlling character influenced the course of the executive. The United States was never negotiated had failed to receive the sanction of the senate.—One of the chief objections which was urged against it, was found to consist in the fact, that the question of annexation had not been submitted to the ordeal of public opinion in the United States. However untenable such an objection was esteemed to be, in view of the unquestionable power of the executive to negotiate the treaty, and the great and lasting interests involved in the question, I felt it to be my duty to submit the whole subject to Congress, as the best expounder of popular sentiment. No definitive action having

been taken on the subject by Congress, the question referred itself directly to the decision of the states and the people. The great popular election which has just terminated, affords the best opportunity of ascertaining the will of the states, and the people upon it. Pending that, it became the imperative duty of the executive to withhold his assent to the question of annexation was still before the American people, and that until their decision was pronounced, any serious invasion of Texas would be regarded as an attempt to forestall their judgment, and could not be looked upon with indifference. I am most happy to inform you, that no such invasion has taken

place; and I trust that whatever your action may be, upon it, Mexico will see the importance of deciding the matter by a resort to peaceful expedients, in preference to those of arms. The decision of the people and the states, on this great and interesting subject, has been decisively manifested. The question of annexation has been presented unaltered to their consideration, by the treaty of all the lateral and incidental issues, which were calculated to divide and distract the public councils, were carefully avoided. These were left to the wisdom of the future to determine. It presented, I repeat, the isolated question of annexation; and in that form it has been submitted to the ordeal of public sentiment. A controlling majority of the people, and a large majority of the states, have decided in favor of immediate annexation. In-

structions have thus come up to both branches of Congress, from their respective constituents, in terms the most emphatic. It is the will of both the people and the states, that Texas shall be annexed to the Union promptly and immediately. It may be hoped that in carrying into execution the public will thus declared, all collateral issues may be avoided. Future legislatures can best decide as to the number of states which should be formed out of the territory, when the time has arrived, for deciding that question. So with all others, by the treaty, the United States has assumed the payment of the debt of Texas, the amount not exceeding \$10,000,000 to be paid, with the exception of a sum falling short of \$400,000, exclusively out of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. We could not, with honor, take the lands, without assuming the full payment of all incumbrances upon them.

sessions on this Continent. We have imposed no impediments in the way of such acquisitions of Territory, large and extensive as many of them are, as the leading powers of Europe have made, from time to time, in every part of the world. We seek no conquest made by war. No intrigue will have been resorted to, or acts of diplomacy essayed to accomplish the annexation of Texas. Free and independent herself, she asks to be received into our Union. It is a question for our own decision, whether she shall be received

The two Governments having already agreed, through their respective organs, on the terms of annexation, I would recommend their adoption by Congress in the form of a joint resolution, or, at, to be perfected and made binding on the two countries, when adopted in like manner by the Government of Texas.

In order that the subject may be fully presented at the hearings, the correspondence heretofore taken place is being referred to it, together with the adjournment of Congress, between the United States, Texas, and Mexico, is herewith transmitted.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the Convention concluded between the United States and Mexico on the 20th of November, 1843, have been transmitted through our Minister, for the concurrence of the Mexican Government; but, although urged thereto, no action has yet been had on the subject; and, for any other course to be pursued, which would be so favorable to our position in the future.

The Decree of September, 1843, in relation to the retail trade, the order for the expulsion of foreigners, and that of a more recent date in regard to passports—all of which are considered as in violation of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the two countries, have led to a correspondence of considerable length between the Minister for Foreign Relations and our Representative at Mexico, but without any satisfactory result. They remain still unadjusted; and many and serious inconveniences have already resulted to our citizens in consequence of them.

Questions growing out of the act of disarming a body of Texian troops under the command of Major Snively, by an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of our Government; and the forcible entry into the Custom House at Brary's Landing, on Red River, by certain citizens of the United States, and taking away from them the arms of the Collector of the Custom House, as forfeited under the laws of Texas, have been adjusted; so far as the powers of the Executive extend. The correspondence between the two Governments in reference to both subjects, will be found amongst the accompanying documents. It contains a full statement of all the facts and circumstances, with the views taken on both sides, and the principles on which the questions have been adjusted. It remains for Congress to make the necessary appropriation to carry the arrangement into effect, which I respectfully re-

The greatly improved condition of the Treasury, affords a subject for general congratulation. The paralysis which had fallen on trade and commerce, and which subjected the Government to the necessity of resorting to loans and the issue of Treasury notes, to a large amount, has passed away; and, after the payment of upwards of \$7,000,000, on account of the interest, and in redemption of more than \$5,000,000 of the public debt, which falls due on the 1st of Jan. next, and setting apart upwards of \$2,000,000 for the payment of outstanding Treasury notes, and meeting an instalment of the debts of the corporate cities of the District of Columbia—an estimated surplus of upwards of \$7,000,000 will remain in the Treasury, applicable to the fiscal year. The existing appropriations will remain in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year. Should the Treasury notes continue outstanding, as heretofore, that surplus will be considerably augmented. Although all interest has ceased upon them, and the Government has invited their return to the Treasury, yet they remain outstanding, affording great facilities to commerce, and establishing the fact that, under a well-regulated system of finance, the Government has recourse to itself, and does not resort to indirect aid in time of need, not only of private loans, but also of bank facilities.

The only remaining subject of regret is, that the remaining stocks of the Government do not fall due at an earlier day; since their redemption would be entirely within its control. As it is, it may be well worthy the consideration of Congress whether the law establishing the sinking fund—under the operation of which the debts of the Government were paid—be not amended to a great extent, extinguished—should not, with proper modifications, (so as to prevent an accumulation of surpluses, and limited in amount to a specific sum) be re-enacted. Such provision, which would authorize the Government to go into the market for a purchase of its own stock, on fair terms, would serve to maintain the price at the highest point, and, in case of great extent, though the price of the securities, which might, under other circumstances affect its credit. No apprehension of this sort is, at this moment, entertained; since the stock of the Government which but two years ago were offered for sale to capitalists, at home and abroad, at a discount of 20 per cent, are now sold at a price greatly above par in the market. It is only a wise and prudent forecast admonishes us to place beyond the reach of contingency the public credit.

It must also be a matter of unimpaired gratification, that, under the existing financial system resting upon the act of 1789, and the resolution of 1816—the currency of the country has attained a state of perfect soundness; and that the United States, in consequence of different parts of the Union being in the possession of the same money, have escaped the great depreciation, and in fact worthlessness of the currency in many of the states—are now reduced to little more than the mere expense of transporting specie from place to place, and the risk incident to the operation. In a new country like that of the United States—where so many inducements are held out for speculation—the influence of the Government, and the aid of the Bank of any description, when it reaches any considerable amount, require the closest vigilance on the part of the Government. All banking institutions, under whatever denomination they may pass, are governed by an almost exclusive regard to the interest of the stockholders. That interest consists in the augmentation of profits, in the form of dividends, and in the accumulation of their capital.

The dangers to be guarded against are greatly augmented by too large a surplus of revenue. When that surplus greatly exceeds in amount what shall be required by a wise and prudent forecast to meet unforeseen contingencies, the Legislature itself may come to be seized with a disposition to indulge in extravagant appropriations to objects, many of which may—and most probably would—be found to conflict with the institution. A fancied expediency is elevated above constitutional authority: and a

less and wasteful extravagance, but too totally follows. The important power of taxation, which, when exercised in its most strict form, is a burden on labor and production; is resorted to under various pretexts and purposes having no affinity to the motives which dictated its grant, and the extravagance of Government stimulates individual extravagance, until the spirit of a wild and unregulated speculation, involves one and all in its unfortunate results. In view of such consequences, it may be laid down as an axiom, founded on moral and political truth, that no such tax should be imposed than is necessary for an economical administration of the Government; and whatever, beyond, should be reduced or omitted. This doctrine does in no way conflict with the exercise of a sound discretion in the selection of the articles to be taxed, which, as regards the public weal would at all times suggest to the Legislative mind. It leaves the range of selection undefined; and such selection should always be made with eye to the great interests of the country,—composed as in the Union, of separate and independent States, a patriotic Legislature will not fail in consulting the interests of the latter, to adopt such course as will be best calculated to advance the harmony of the whole; and thus ensure that permanency in the policy of Government without which the efforts to advance the public prosperity are vain and fruitless. The grant of important task rests with Congress; and the Executive can do no more than recommend the general principles which should govern its execution.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War, for exhibition of the condition of the army; and recommend to you, as well worthy your best consideration, many of the suggestions it contains. The Secretary in no degree exaggerates the great importance, of pressing forward, without delay, in the work of erecting and finishing the fortifications, to protect particularly alludes. Much has been done since the late war, and our citizens stand in a state of security against the hazards of hostile attack, within the last four years; but considering the new elements which have been, of late years, employed the propelling of ships, and formidable implements of destruction which have been brought into service we cannot be too active and vigilant in preparing and perfecting the means of defence. I refer you, also, to his report for a full statement of the condition of the Indian tribes within our jurisdiction. The Executive has shewn no effort in carrying into effect the well-established policy of the Government, which contemplates a removal of all the tribes residing within the limits of the several States, beyond those limits; and it is now enabled to congratulate the country at the prospect of an early consummation of this object. Many of the tribes have already attained a great degree of civilized life; and through the operation of the schools established among them, aided by the efforts of the pious men of various religious denominations—who devote themselves to the task of their improvement—we may fondly hope that, the remains of the formidable tribes which were once masters of this country will, in the transition from barbarism to civilization, and from savagery to cultivation, add another bright trophy to adorn the walls of a well-directed philanthropy.

[illegible]

of the women residents. The difficulties which have existed in the way of securing titles for the necessary grounds, operations have not yet been commenced towards the establishment of the Naxy Yrd. at Memphis. So soon as the title is perfected, no further delay will be permitted to intervene. It is well worthy of your consideration, whether Congress should not direct the establishment of a rope-walk, in connection with the contemplated Naxy Yrd., as a measure not only of great utility, but highly useful and economical. The only establishment of the sort now connected with the service is located at Boston and the advantages of a similar establishment convenient to the hemp-growing region must be apparent to all.

ment might still be made, and the revenue which would be realized by the sale of land to the State and to the public Treasury has, however, been such as to have precluded the consideration of any material change. The difficulties upon this head have, however, ceased, and a larger discretion is now left to the Government.

cannot too strongly urge the policy of authorizing the establishment of a line of steamships regularly to ply between our country and foreign ports, and upon our own waters, for the transportation of the mail. The advantage of the British Government is well worthy of imitation in this respect. The belief is strongly entertained that the emolument arising from the transportation of mail matter in foreign countries, would more than make up in inducement to cause individual enterprise to undertake that branch of the task, and the remuneration of the Government would be conserved in case of emergency by the ships so employed. Should this suggestion meet your approval, the propriety of placing such ships under the command of experienced officers of the navy will not escape your honorable officers. The application of steam to the purposes of warfare, cogently recommends an extensive marine as important in estimating the defence of the country. Fortunately this may be attained by us to a great extent without incurring any large amount of expenditure. Steam vessels to be engaged in the transportation of the mails can be engaged on principal water courses, lakes and parts of our principal coast, could also be so constructed as to be effective in the service of war, when needed; and would, in the hands of themselves, constitute a formidable force, in order to repel attacks from abroad. We cannot be blind to the fact, that other nations have already added large numbers of steamships to their naval armaments; and that this new and powerful agent is destined to revolutionize the condition of the world. It would be to our disadvantage to be left behind by the United States, therefore, looking to the security of our commerce, we would recommend that we authorize to adopt a similar policy; and the plan suggested will enable them to do so at a small comparative cost.

Take the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and untiring energy of the officers who have characterized the conduct of the members of the Executive Cabinet. Each, in his appropriate sphere, has rendered me the most efficient aid in carrying on the Government; and it will not, I trust, be altogether out of place, for me to bear this public testimony to the cardinal objects which should ever be held in view by those entrusted with the administration of public affairs, are rigidly, and without favor or affection, to interpret the national will, expressed in the laws, as that which should be done to none but justice to all; this has been the rule upon which they have acted; and thus, it is believed that few cases, if any, exist, wherein our citizens, who, from time to time, have been drawn to the seat of Government for the settlement of their transactions with the Government, have gone away dissatisfied. Where the testimony has been presented, and was esteemed satisfactory, their claims have been promptly audited; and this in the absence of all favoritism or partiality. The Government is not just to its own people, can neither claim their affection, nor the respect of the world. At the same time, the closest attention has been paid to those matters which relate more immediately to the great concerns of the country.—Order and efficiency in each branch of the public service, have prevailed; accompanied by a system of the most rigid responsibility, on the part of the Executive, in discharging his functions. The fact, in illustration of the truth of these remarks, deserves to be noticed, that the revenues of the Government, amounting, in the last four years, to upwards of \$120,000,000, have been collected and disbursed, through the numerous Governmental agents, without the loss, by default, of any amount worthy of

The appropriations made by Congress for the improvement of the rivers of the West, and of the great inland lakes, are in a course of judicious expenditure under suitable regulations, and are destined, it is to be hoped, to realize all the benefits designed to be accomplished by Congress. It cannot, however, sufficiently impress upon Congress the great importance of withholding appropriations from improvement which are not ascertained, by previous examination and survey, to be necessary for the shelter and protection of trade from the dangers of storms and tempests. Without this precaution, the expenditures are but too apt to ensure to the benefit of individuals; without regard to the only consideration which can render them constitutional—the public interests and the general good.

I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the interests of this District over which, by the Constitution, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction. It would be deeply to be regretted should there be, at any time, ground to complain of neglect on the part of a community which, attached as it is from the parental care of the state of Virginia and Maryland; can only expect aid from Congress as its local legislature. Amongst the subjects which claim your attention, is the prompt organization of an asylum for the insane, who may be found, from time to time, scourged by within this District. Such course is being recommended by considerations which apply to all branches of the public service. For the necessities in this behalf, I invite your particular attention, to the report of the Governor of the

I have thus, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, presented you a true and faithful picture of the condition of public affairs, both foreign and domestic. The wants of the public service are made known to you; and matter of no ordinary importance are urged upon your consideration.— Shall I not be permitted to congratulate you on the happy auspices under which you have assembled, and at the important charge in the condition of things which has occurred in the last three years? During that period questions with foreign powers, of vital importance to the peace of our country, and

[illegible]

WASHINGTON, December, 1844.